52. The country should take steps to achieve a leadership role in frontier areas of agriculture science and technology. A world class institution in agricultural science technology should be set up. A small Task Force should be set up to give a concrete shape to this concept, working out the financial implications, method of financing, the areas of activity etc. (Para 5.43)

53. For taking decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a reasonable timeframe; the report and views of DG, ICAR on the recommendations should be placed before ICAR Society within about a month. Matters requiring Cabinet approval should be put upto it within one month of the decision of the Society. (Para 6.2)

54. An institutionalized arrangement should be made for monitoring the implementation of decisions on the recommendations of the Committee. A cell under senior Director level officer be created within ICAR for this purpose. (Para 6.3)

Drought assistance to Rajasthan

330. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial and other types of assistance provided to State of Rajasthan so far, to meet the havoc caused by severe drought there; and

(b) the nature of assistance likely to be provided to Rajasthan during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Details of assistance provided to Rajasthan for the current drought include the following:

(i) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 amounting to Rs. 171.16 crores;

(ii) Assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) amounting to Rs. 167.34 crores, which includes Rs. 11.66 crores for cattle camps;

(iii) Allocation of 10.10 lakh MTs of foodgrains under Special Component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) scheme for relief employment. It has been decided to allocate further 19 lakh MTs upto July, 2003, under a special package of such allocations;

(iv) Allocation of 30,000 MTs of cattle grade feed;

(v) Assistance under Macro Management Scheme for supply of 2.40 lakh minikits;

(vi) Free transportation of water and fodder by the Railways upto June, 2003;

(vii) Formulation of a scheme for cattle care measures through NGOs;

(viii) Decision to convert Kharif 2002 loans into medium term loans, suspension of interest thereon during current year and not charging one year's interest;

(ix) Release of funds under related schemes implemented by various Central Ministries/Departments.

Provision of further assistance from NCCF, etc. for current drought is under consideration.

Constructions by Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium in Kashmir

331. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the working of Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium; and

(b) if so, whether Government would persuade the consortium to undertake construction of Tatra Pack units and apple juice factories at various places in Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.